

In order to place the instant application in condition for allowance, claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice of Applicants' rights relating to the cancelled subject matter in a continuing application. The claims have been replaced by method of use claims 37-45.

Independent claim 37 replaces dependent method of use claim 16 (for the compounds of now cancelled claim 1 as previously amended). New claims 38-45, dependent from claim 37, are directed to the method of use for the compounds of now cancelled claims 2-5, 36 and 6-8, respectively, as previously amended.

Instant claims 37-45 are directed to a method of selectively inhibiting cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) activity without substantially inhibiting cyclooxygenase-1 (COX-1) activity in mammals by administering to a mammal in need thereof an effective COX-2 inhibiting amount of a compound as defined in said claims, which amount is substantially free of COX-1 inhibiting activity.

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-19 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 3,445,011 (Ciba) and US 3,558,690 (Sallmann, *et al.*) is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of instant claims 37-45 is directed only to the subject matter of rejected claim 16 (now as independent claim 37). In view thereof, the rejection of now cancelled claims 1-8, 10-13, 15 and 17-19 is no longer at issue in the instant application.

As is clear from the specification, the novel compounds encompassed by the instant method of use claims are selective inhibitors of cyclooxygenase-2. Supporting biological data for illustrative compounds of examples 1(d) and 1(g) on page 24 and of example 3(a) on page 27 appears on page 7 (second and third paragraphs from bottom of page) and on page 8 (fourth paragraph). Instant claims 43, 44 and 45 are directed to these examples.

As to US 3,558,690 and DE 3,445,011, neither reference contains any disclosure relating to cyclooxygenase-1 or cyclooxygenase-2 inhibition. Therefore, said references cannot serve to suggest the claimed method of selectively inhibiting cyclooxygenase-2 activity and cannot serve to provide any reasonable expectation of success.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of instant claims 37-45 is patentable over US 3,558,690 and DE 3,445,011, and that the rejection under 35 USC 103(a) is no longer warranted.

The Applicants respectfully request confirmation of the Examiner's consideration of the citations listed on 1449 forms which were submitted to the PTO with Information Disclosure Statements dated November 23, 1998, December 3, 1998, March 2, 1999, and January 13, 2000. For the convenience of the Examiner, copies of said Information Disclosure Statements and 1449 forms are enclosed herewith.

It is believed that all the instant claims are in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encl. Information Disclosure Statements  
and PTO 1449 Forms

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